



## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** *World Journal of Hepatology*

**Manuscript NO:** 84728

**Title:** Associations between Irritable Bowel Syndrome and Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease: A Systematic Review

**Provenance and peer review:** Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 04091933

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Associate Professor, Senior Researcher

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Russia

**Author's Country/Territory:** Singapore

**Manuscript submission date:** 2023-03-26

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2023-04-09 08:31

**Reviewer performed review:** 2023-04-22 17:32

**Review time:** 13 Days and 9 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Novelty of this manuscript</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty
<b>Creativity or innovation of this manuscript</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No creativity or innovation



<b>Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No scientific significance
<b>Language quality</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

The study is relevant given the high prevalence of both NAFLD and IBS. The authors confirmed the link between NAFLD and IBS and made a practically important conclusion that patients with one of these diseases should be screened for the presence of the other. In the future, this may lead to the development of new therapeutic strategies aimed at both diseases. Patients with overlapping IBS and NAFLD had more metabolic risk factors, including high BMI, hypertension, dyslipidemia, and diabetes. This may be important to develop strategies to prevent such overlap. The authors also discussed in detail the similar characteristics of IBS and NAFLD. The tables and illustrations are well done and reflect relevant content. In conclusion, the manuscript can be recommended for publication after a minor revision. It is recommended to add references to publications 2021-2022 (for example, 1) Purssell H, Whorwell PJ, Athwal VS, Vasant DH. Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease in irritable bowel syndrome: More than a coincidence? *World J Hepatol.* 2021 Dec 27;13(12):1816-1827. doi: 10.4254/wjh.v13.i12.1816. 2) Franco L, Jones-Pauley M, Tamimi O, Neshatian L, Nguyen D, Graviss E, Quigley EM, Victor D 3rd. Irritable Bowel Syndrome Symptoms in



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Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease Patients Are an Indicator of Depression and Anxiety. J Clin Gastroenterol. 2022 Oct 10. doi: 10.1097/MCG.0000000000001770.) Reference to the Figure 3 (Postulated Pathophysiology) should be given in the text of the manuscript.



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**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer’s code:** 03266250

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Associate Chief Physician

**Reviewer’s Country/Territory:** China

**Author’s Country/Territory:** Singapore

**Manuscript submission date:** 2023-03-26

**Reviewer chosen by:** Geng-Long Liu

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2023-05-03 13:34

**Reviewer performed review:** 2023-05-09 07:38

**Review time:** 5 Days and 18 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Novelty of this manuscript</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty
<b>Creativity or innovation of this manuscript</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No creativity or innovation



<b>Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No scientific significance
<b>Language quality</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

1.This article identifies a possible association between IBS and NAFLD through a systematic review of the retrieved relationships between IBS and NAFLD, and hypothesizes that the mechanism of action: a.The brain-gut-liver axis and microbiome; b. Chronic Inflammation and Immune System Activation; c. Bile acids ; d. Small Intestinal Bacterial Overgrowth (SIBO); e. Intestinal Permeability; f. Obesity and Metabolic Syndrome ; g. Poor sleep. Authors need to understand whether their study is aimed at clinical populations or basic research workers, and there should be a core salient and focused part of the mechanism that provides strong evidence. Does the endocrine system play a more important role? Correlation or causation can be pointed out in the discussion section. 2.Both the search and evaluation work inside the systematic review need to be done by two or more people.Is there a missing search formula? You can combine it with free words to check the omissions. 3.The content of Table 2 should be streamlined, and important information should be further organized and presented in the text. The basic information of the five included papers should be more comprehensive, such as location, study population, gender, etc. Other information can



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be used as supplementary materials in the attached table.



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**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 03303427

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** PhD

**Professional title:** Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** China

**Author's Country/Territory:** Singapore

**Manuscript submission date:** 2023-03-26

**Reviewer chosen by:** Geng-Long Liu

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2023-05-04 07:54

**Reviewer performed review:** 2023-05-14 15:01

**Review time:** 10 Days and 7 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Novelty of this manuscript</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty
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<b>Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No scientific significance
<b>Language quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This manuscript stated shared mechanisms underlying IBS and NAFLD, however, these mechanisms are not very specific. In other words, what do you think about are there any more direct connections between them. And maybe it will be better to summarize the treatment of both have in common.